

**THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF WHITE SUPREMACY  
ON THE NATIVE AMERICANS IN SHERMAN ALEXIE'S *FLIGHT***

**UNDERGRADUATE THESIS**

**BY  
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**STUDY PROGRAM OF ENGLISH  
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE  
FACULTY OF CULTURAL STUDIES  
UNIVERSITAS BRAWIJAYA  
2018**

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**Presented to**

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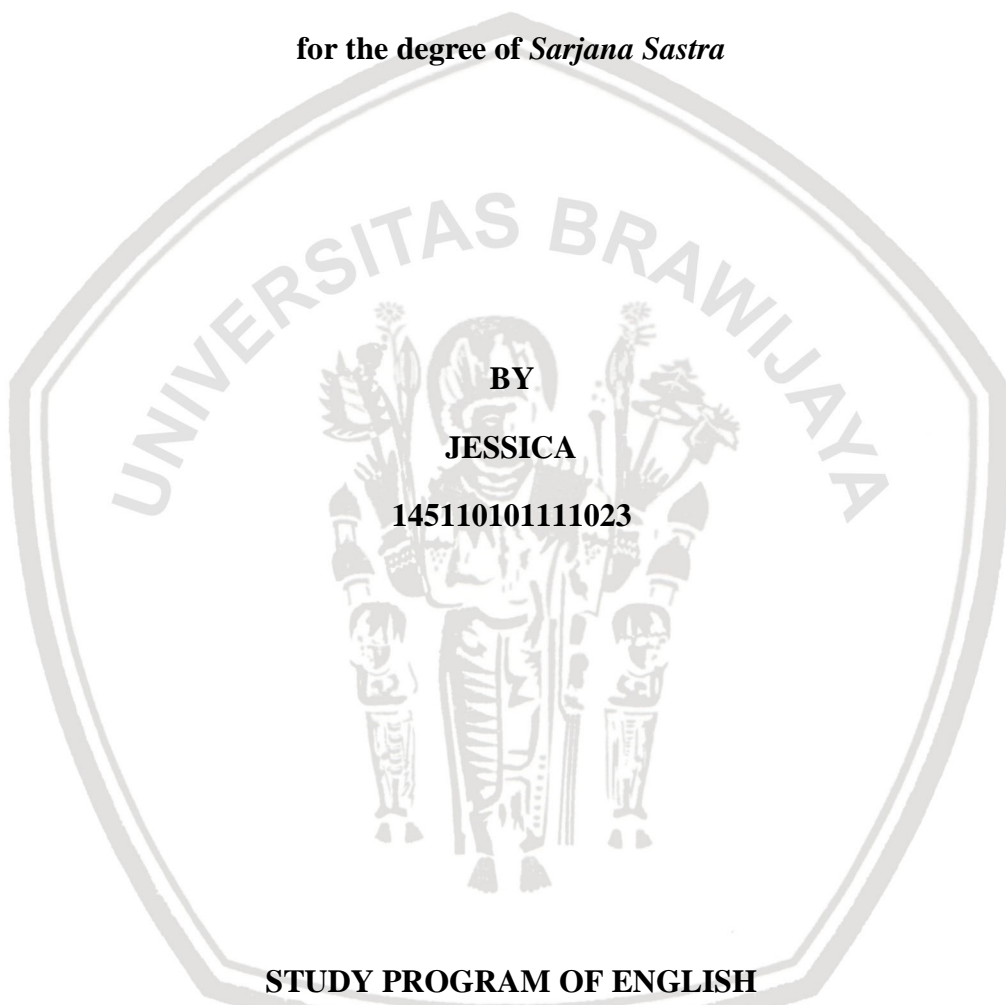
**for the degree of *Sarjana Sastra***

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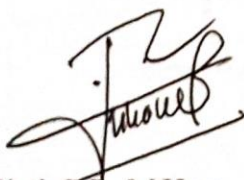


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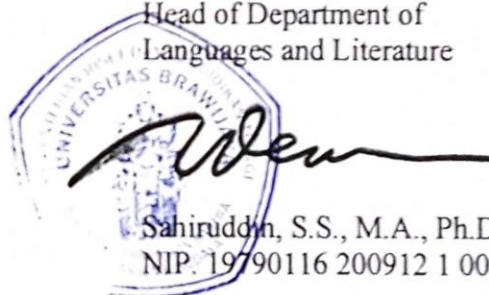
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Malang, 18 Juli 2018

The Researcher



## ABSTRACT

Jessica, 2018., **The Negative Impact of White Supremacy on the Native Americans in Sherman Alexie's *Flight***. Study Program of English, Department of Languages and Literatures, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Universitas Brawijaya. Supervisor: Dr. Dra. Sri Herminingrum, M.Hum

Keywords: white supremacy, Native Americans, Sherman Alexie, *Flight*

*Flight* by Sherman Alexie portrays White Supremacy through out-of-body experience and time-traveling of the main character, Zits. In *Flight*, White Supremacy generates some acts which are colonization, westernization, and discrimination. This study scrutinizes the negative impacts of White Supremacy through colonization, westernization, and discrimination.

Sociological approach to literature and the theory of race and ethnicity are applied to analyze social construction of race which deals with human social interaction and racial distinction. White Supremacy is exerted to analyze the capacity of white superiority which inflicts the Native Americans. Furthermore, theories of colonization, westernization, and discrimination are used to investigate the impacts of each act of White Supremacy.

The findings of this study evince that through colonization, westernization, and discrimination, White Supremacy is deployed to eliminate the Native Americans and their cultures, and to expel them. Subsequently, the Native Americans encounter depopulation, disunited tribes, loss the sense of affection and attachment to family, alienated, differentiated, inequality, demoralized, and physical injuries. The next researcher is suggested to analyze *Flight* by observing the positive impact of White Supremacy in the social lives of the Native Americans psychologically to complete this research.

## ABSTRAK

Jessica, 2018., **Dampak Negatif dari Supremasi Kulit Putih terhadap Penduduk Asli Amerika dalam *Flight* karya Sherman Alexie.** Program Studi Bahasa Inggris, Departemen Bahasa dan Sastra, Fakultas Ilmu Budaya, Universitas Brawijaya. Supervisor: Dr. Dra. Sri Herminingrum, M.Hum

Kata Kunci: supremasi kulit putih, penduduk asli Amerika, Sherman Alexie, *Flight*

*Flight* karya Sherman Alexie menggambarkan Supremasi Kulit Putih melalui pengalaman keluar dari tubuh dan perjalanan waktu dari tokoh utama yang bernama Zits. Di dalam *Flight*, Supremasi Kulit Putih menyebabkan beberapa tindakan yaitu kolonisasi, westernisasi, dan diskriminasi. Penelitian ini meneliti dampak negatif dari Supremasi Kulit Putih melalui kolonisasi, westernisasi, dan diskriminasi.

Pendekatan sosiologi sastra dan teori ras dan etnis diterapkan untuk menganalisis konstruksi sosial ras yang berhubungan dengan interaksi sosial manusia dan perbedaan rasial. Teori Supremasi Kulit Putih diterapkan untuk menganalisa kapasitas superioritas kulit putih yang menimpa penduduk asli Amerika. Selain itu, teori kolonisasi, westernisasi, dan diskriminasi digunakan untuk menyelidiki dampak negatif dari setiap tindakan Supremasi Kulit Putih.

Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa melalui kolonisasi, westernisasi, dan diskriminasi, Supremasi Kulit Putih dikerahkan untuk menenyapkan penduduk asli Amerika dan budaya mereka, serta untuk mengusir mereka. Setelah itu, penduduk asli Amerika mengalami depopulasi, perpecah-belahan suku, kehilangan rasa kasih sayang dan keterikatan pada keluarga, keterasingan, perbedaan, ketidaksetaraan, demoralisasi dan luka fisik. Peneliti selanjutnya disarankan untuk menganalisis *Flight* dengan meneliti dampak positif Supremasi Kulit Putih dalam kehidupan sosial penduduk asli Amerika secara psikologis untuk melengkapi penelitian ini.



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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Colonization occurred almost throughout the world, and it arose as one of the acts to conquer more lands to show the colonizers' power. European people as one of the colonizers also expected for the same thing when they were looking for a country named India. However, they unintentionally arrived in an inaccurate destination. Their accidental settling induced them to settle in the new land and proclaim it. They expropriated the new land which they called the 'New World' or the Americas to expand their territory and power. They usurped the land over the Native American tribes who were known as the ones who settled first in the land and acquired the title as 'Native Americans'. They arrogated all of the Native Americans' rights and possessed the land. They eliminated and expelled the Native Americans.

European colonizers began to convince the Native Americans that they were "inferior, uneducated and uncivilized" (JanMohamed 62, cited in Horne 1999, p. 93) and they were the opposite of the European colonizers. The colonizers compelled the Native American lived an unfamiliar way of life. They dispatched the Native Americans to the foster houses and indoctrinated them to live like western people without considering what the Native Americans felt towards these executions. They justified their executions by stating that it was to 'help' the Native Americans to be more educated and civilized.

The colonizers' justification was from their ideology or belief related to their skin color or race which influence them to feel more superior and powerful than the other races including the Native Americans. It also became one of the rationales why the European people did the colonization, which is because they believed the Native Americans are lower regarding the skin color and race. This ideology or belief of white European colonizers is called White Supremacy.

Historically, White Supremacy has been understood as the belief that white people are superior to people of color. As such, White Supremacy was the ideological driver of the European colonial projects and U.S. imperial projects: it was used to rationalize unjust rule of people and lands, theft of land and resources, enslavement, and genocide (Cole 2017, para.1)

Therefore, it can be inferred that the European colonizers standardized the other people whose different races according to their criterion of being human. They imposed the term on the Native Americans as well, to justify their discriminatory acts. They differentiated the Native Americans from themselves by making the others constrained to opine that they were inferior people because of their skin color. They almost considered them not as human beings, but savages.

As the impact of the term White Supremacy, almost all of the Native Americans encountered difficulties. They were regarded as tribal and uneducated, compared to the European colonists. They also had to undergo loss of sense of attachment to a family because of westernization and as well discrimination which led to inequality. These conditions which provoke Native American descent writers to show what they had seen and felt through their literary works.

One of the Native American descent writers who achieves many awards from his writings about his experience as Native American is Sherman Alexie. His best known works like *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven* (1993), *Smoke Signals* (1998), and *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* (2007) lead him to many recognitions and awards because of how he can describe appropriately about the experiences confronted by Native Americans. One of his works which also draws public attention is *Flight* (2007).

*Flight* is a novel which tells about how a half-Native American and a half-Irish teenager named Zits encounters underestimation, discrimination, and rejection from society. It is because of his race which is regarded as inferior to the dominant community, which is white Americans. His distinctive features make him naturally differentiated from white Americans. Zits loses his confidence and consider himself as a subordinate human being because of this. He also does not know much about the culture of Native Americans to be prouder of himself since nobody has taught him how to live like Native Americans. Being half-Irish does not alleviate him and prompt him to be accepted in the society as well. Through his journey of traveling back in time, it is found another issue relating to the impact of White Supremacy.

At the beginning of the story, as an introduction, it is described that Zits as a Native American is placed in foster houses to make him live like white Americans. Another reason is because he has no biological parent who can take care of him. His Irish mother has died and his Native American father becomes an alcoholic and leaves him when he is still very young. However, in the society, he is not entirely accepted



even though he has already lived with his white American foster parents. He still gets criticized for the clothes that he wears and for the things that he does. He also does not have many friends in school. It makes him question his existence and blame the society for what he has experienced.

Zits moves to numerous foster house since he is still eleven years old. As a result, Zits becomes a rebellious young man who never listens to anyone around him. He once makes trouble and has to be jailed and met someone named Justice who provokes him to commit a severe crime. He is instructed to kill everybody at a bank as an act of revenge. He executes what he is directed, he brings two revolvers to the bank and shoots everybody there. However, as though it never occurs, he collapses and wakes up as another person in 1970's. It is how Zits starts his journey traveling back in time, revealing what has transpired to the Native Americans in the past and recent time.

It is presented in the novel that there are three acts which evince the existence of White Supremacy. They are colonization, westernization, and discrimination, which are essential to be raised in this research interline with White Supremacy and Native Americans. Massacres, foster houses, and segregation are several examples of situations which give impacts to the life of Native Americans. However, the afflictions of Native Americans are less exposed compared to the other racial groups in the United States. *Flight* as the material object highlights those issues, which the researcher believes that it can reveal the Native Americans more along with their problems. On that account, people can be enlightened with their complications and can relate it to



their surroundings as well. Moreover, the problems chosen and the material object in this research are still not found yet in English Department of Faculty of Cultural Studies at Brawijaya University. Although there is American Study course, issues regarding Native Americans are still rarely used as a topic in an undergraduate thesis.

### **1.2 Problem of the Study**

*Flight* is a novel which represents most of Native Americans' lives under the influence of White Supremacy. The main character as a half Native American is forced to live in foster houses. Moreover, he also has to confront the European colonizers and treated differently because of his race when he travels back in time. He finds out how the Native Americans' lives under the reign of European colonists and white Americans. Either colonization, westernization, or discrimination can give impacts to the characters in the novel as part of White Supremacy. On account of that, the problem of the study focuses on the impact of White Supremacy which is undergone by Native Americans, primarily related to colonization, westernization, and discrimination.

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

Based on the problem stated before, the study aims to analyze the impact of American White Supremacy through colonization, westernization, and discrimination which are undergone by the Native Americans as represented in *Flight* by Sherman Alexie.

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

#### 2.1 Theoretical Frameworks

This chapter gives information about the approach and theories that will be used to analyze the problem of the study, namely White Supremacy in the context of colonization. Furthermore, the appointed approach is sociological approach to literature, and the theories that will be applied are race and ethnicity, White Supremacy, colonization, westernization and discrimination toward Native Americans.

##### 2.1.1 Sociological Approach to Literature

Literature is considered as part of art which human beings create to entertain themselves, but to some extent, literature can imply more than what it seems and has a relation to the real world. It makes literature also considered as the reflection of the real society, and there is no something brand new in literary works. Burke (cited in Adams, 1971) mentioned that “there is no ‘pure’ literature here.” It indicates that what is illustrated in the literary works by the authors does not merely come from the authors’ minds, but there are some influences from the real-life society as well.

A profound correlation between literary works and real society were realized by literary critics long ago which initiated the establishment of sociological approach as literary criticism. According to Kennedy and Gioia (1995, p. 1790-1818 cited in Padgett, 1997) sociological approach to literature “examines literature in the cultural,

economic and political context in which it is written or received.” It means cultural, economic and political background which exist in the real society helps in shaping literary work. Therefore, this approach can provide literary critics to explore and scrutinize a literary work based on the lens of sociology. It can examine the literary work grounded on the aspects of society where the author writes it or where the literary work received by the readers.

A sociological approach to literature is often applied to look into the correlation between the author and the society since literary work itself often epitomizes the real-life community. Therefore, literary works are commonly exerted to voice the authors’ point of views about situations transpired in the real-life community. Burke’s statement (1998, p. 593), “everything is ‘medicine’ in literature. Proverbs are designed for consolation or vengeance, for admonition or exhortation, for foretelling” signifies that literary work is created to mend situations transpired in the society.

A sociological approach to literature also can be applied to every type of literary work since it can convey protests, avenge of the injustice, suggestions to the society, or voice what the author perceives and opines. Peck (1921) stated that there were not few authors back in the days and today that had written their literary works by employing economic, ethical, or sociological questions as their point of view. Authors can use their literary works to publish their perspectives pertained to what transpired in their surroundings, including the issues of White Supremacy.

White Supremacy is one of the forms of social construction of race which deals with human social interaction. Therefore, the essence of White Supremacy is the

existence of racial distinction. Furthermore, as stated by Onwuachi-Willig (2016, para. 1), “race is not biological. It is a social construct”, which indicates race ensues from society. Regarding this matter, a sociological approach is deemed suitable to be applied as the approach of this study. Furthermore, to comprehend thoroughly the problem that will be analyzed, the essence of White Supremacy which adheres to race and ethnicity will be discussed first.

### **2.1.2 Race and Ethnicity**

The idea of White Supremacy originates from distinct races and ethnicity. Since there are differences, White European colonists began to surmise they are better and more superior because of their skin color compared to the Native Americans. It constructs a strong correlation between race and ethnicity and society since race and ethnicity formed in the society. According to Crossman (2017, para. 1), race and ethnicity are smaller parts of the more substantial part of sociology in which the researchers and the theorists concern on the correlation between social; politic; and economy, and race and ethnicity in a particular society, region, and community. It means that a slight difference in the society, region, and community can create another race and ethnicity which make them become vary.

American Sociological Association (ASA, para. 1) defined race and ethnicity as “physical differences that groups and cultures consider socially significant; and shared cultures, such as language, ancestry, practices, and beliefs,” respectively. This idea can create certain categories in society because of the differences regarding looks

and customs which the society has itself. Crossman (2017, para. 7) claimed that commonly race defined by the differences in physical characteristics of someone. It signifies that societies tend to only see the physical characteristics as part of a human entity and rarely to see any other quality in a person. They end up constructing the term “race” itself. He (2017, para. 7) added that the categories of race in the US consisted of Black, White, Asian, Latino and also included American Indian.

On the contrary, USC Annenberg (para. 2) describes race and ethnicity do not only refer to the physical characteristics of someone, but it can also be more profound like ideology. Race and ethnicity play an essential role in constructing someone’s perspective in discerning and perceiving his or her surroundings. Race and ethnicity can also be used to define someone as an insider or an outsider. It makes a particular group discriminates against another group and make each race and ethnicity even diverse. This what also portrayed in *Flight*. One of the characters segregated because he does not belong to that particular group, both concerning physical characteristics and ideology.

As the race and ethnicity diverse in the society, ones may opine that they are higher than the others. It subsequently will lead to the notion of superiority and inferiority which appertain to White Supremacy. Before the existence of colonization, westernization, and discrimination, there is domination or superiority in society. People will assume that other people are equivalent to them if they do not possess a condescension. Therefore, it is essential to discuss the superiority, which is the main problem in this study, identified in White Supremacy.



### 2.1.3 White Supremacy

Varied races exist in the society. Consequently, it will raise self-assurance of a particular group to define which particular race is better. In this case is white European colonizers. White power has ever dominated almost the entire part of the world based on their belief that they are better because their skin color is the brightest color skin. In term of ethnicity, they think that they are more educated since their customs are more modern than the others'. This reason which makes them concludes that the others are primitive customary. The belief of White people are better and more potent than the other races is called White Supremacy.

A Dictionary of Americanisms (Mathews 1951:1861, cited in Dobratz and Shanks-Meile, 1997, p. 10) defines White Supremacy as “domination by Whites.” It indicates that European colonists as White people sit in a higher status in society. They do not separate themselves from the other races, but they endeavor to dominate the other races and to win over power. Thus, they tried to subjugate the world by colonizing other country and by forcing their ideology as well.

The European colonists' ambition provokes them to commit further action. They attempted to commit genocide against particular groups of people, including Native American. They were triggered to take over the land from the Native Americans and strived to exterminate all of the Native Americans. According to The Huffing Post (2016), there were “500 million Indigenous American Indians that were slaughtered in genocide”, which recorded by the history.



There are also westernization and discrimination counted as parts of White Supremacy. Native Americans were coerced to carry out western ideology. However, they got discriminated because they performed the western practice differently. Native American authors often evince these situations in their works as a contribution to convey Native Americans' point of views toward White power.

*Flight* by Sherman Alexie is one of the literary works which tells about White Supremacy as an issue that is beset by Native Americans. The main character as a Native American has to deal with Whites superiority. The Native Americans lack sufficient group members because of the massacre in the colonization era. Consequently, the main character can only conform to the 'new' environment. Therefore, it is essential to understand White Supremacy in conducting this study. Other issues related to White Supremacy faced by the characters are colonization, westernization, and discrimination. Additionally, White Supremacy is about domination; thence, it is essential to discuss colonization in the following discussion first.

### **2.1.3.1 Colonization**

One of the situations constructed in literary works as a form of White Supremacy is colonization. In this case, done by the European colonists to the Native Americans. Horvath (1972, p. 46) elucidates "colonialism is a form of domination—the control by individuals or groups over the territory and behavior of other individuals or groups.". It signifies that one of the parties plays as the superior to show it has control

over the minor party. According to Kortright (2003, para. 2), the aspects attributed to colonization include “political and legal domination over the ‘other’ society, relations of economic and political dependence, and institutionalized racial and cultural inequalities.” It indicates that the domination covers almost all aspects in society which makes it have a direct connection to society. Since it is frequently found in real-life society, there will be a significant probability of finding this phenomenon in literary works.

Historians classified that there are four types of colonization, which are settler colonialism, exploitation colonialism, surrogate colonialism, and internal colonialism. Settler colonialism aim to settle in the colonized land and replace the indigenous population with the population of settler colonizers. Exploitation colonialism aim to exploit the natural resource or manpower for the importance of the colonizers. Surrogate colonialism aim to provide a support for one or more non-indigenous groups to take over the colonized land which controlled by the previous colonizers who provide the support. Internal colonialism occurred because of the existence of uneven power between areas of a land which makes the exploitation comes from the land itself (Kiger, 2018, p. 2).

The colonization which is experienced by Native Americans is considered as settler colonialism. It is because the colonizers intend to replace the position of indigenous people and it results the emerging of new identity and authority in society (Barker and Lowman, para. 1). European colonizers came to the Americas is not only because they wanted to take its natural resources, but they also wished to settle in the

land. One of literary works which describes/exposes the existence of settler colonialism encountered by Native Americans is *Flight*. This colonization later leads to westernization.

### 2.1.3.2 Westernization

The subsequent move of the European colonizers is to disseminate and constrain their western ideology to the people they colonized. According to Encyclopedia.com (2005, para.1), “westernization in world history can refer to the transmission and reception of European ideas, technology, lifestyles, and institutions throughout the globe.”. It indicates westernization is not only apropos of ideology, but it comprises almost the entire life aspects. Westernization makes the non-western people live like the western people. Srinivas (cited in Pyakkurel, 2015) states “westernization not only introduces new institutions but also results in fundamental changes in the old institutions. Westernization also implies certain values of preference”. It means that westernization gives influence to the former ideology and transmutes a particular value into western’s value. He also describes, westernization also implies domination of particular values which already chosen.

Westernization can be interpreted as the process of assimilation since westernization is an attempt to assimilate customs and practices of the western culture to the non-western people. It includes Native Americans. They are coerced to conform with western culture and ideology. According to Clark (2006), Native American children were taught “the English language, the principles of the Christian religion, and

the arts of civilized life.”. The European colonizers, who brought their ideology, believed the only expedient to be civilized is by implementing western ideology. *Flight* also portrays this issue, in which western culture also influences the characters. However, by indoctrinating the Native Americans in western culture and ideology, the European colonists discerned the differences they have are definite. According to Encyclopedia.com (2005, para. 3), “whatever the context, early European scholars, traders, soldiers, and missionaries viewed themselves and the people they encountered as coming from very different worlds.”. It is the premise that westernization correlates with another form of White Supremacy, which is discrimination.

#### 2.1.3.3 Discrimination

White people opine that they are more exalted than any colored races. It generates discrimination emerged. Pager and Shepherd (2008) said that the most straightforward definition of discrimination was the unequal treatment given to a specific group of people or as an individual, based on their race or ethnicity. Reskin and National Research Council (1998, p.32; 2004, pp. 39 – 40, cited in Pager and Shepherd, 2008) state:

Differential treatment occurs when individuals are treated unequally because of their race. Disparate impact occurs when individuals are treated equally according to a given set of rules and procedures but when the latter are constructed in ways that favor members of one group over another.

Repose on that statement, discrimination is distinguished by two definitions, which are differential treatment and disparate impact. The most common discrimination seen in

society is the differential treatment because the treatment given to a particular group of people is clear. However, it could become grievous if the discrimination is in the form of disparate impact, in which the discrimination is so subtle that no one can detect it quickly since he or she will surmise to already has equal treatments.

Discrimination also transpires in the US, and the targets commonly are the 'colored' people, including Native Americans. It occurs because of the existence of White Supremacy. It makes discrimination cause new problems to Native Americans, such as segregation. They encounter recurrent discrimination from their surroundings because of their race. They do not acquire a proper education, the opportunity to get the same facility in public institutions, such as healthcare, and they live in poverty since they could not get better jobs. In one of the Sherman Alexie's novel, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* (2007), describes that due to the poverty the Native Americans had, it is preferable to kill the indisposed people using one substandard bullet than constraining themselves to receive the medication. It is not only Alexie's novel that discriminations as the form of White Supremacy appear in the literary work, but also in his novel entitled *Flight* (2007), which is the material object of this study.

## 2.2 Previous Studies

In conducting this study, the researcher has found some previous studies with the similar approach or similar material object to help to apprehend the topic of this study. The first study entitled *Queer Native Youth in Revolt: Sexual/Textual Politics in Flight and Drowning in Fire* conducted by Sandra Cox (2012) from Pittsburg State



University. This study discusses a comparable general notion with the current study which is about a social issue. One of its material objects is also identical with the current study. The differences are laid upon the focus of the main subjects. It has sexuality issue and racism as the main problems. The problems are also scrutinized by more profound approaches which are cosmopolitanism and nationalism. Moreover, this study is more of a comparative study since it has two material objects to be compared while the current study focuses on one material object. However, this study helps the researcher to perceive more about racism and discrimination found in *Flight*.

The second previous study is *The Efficacy of Humor in Sherman Alexie's Flight: Violence, Vulnerability, and the Post-9/11 World* conducted by Joseph L. Coulombe (2013) published by Oxford University Press. This study has the identical material object with the current study that is *Flight* by Sherman Alexie. However, it has a different focus. This study is about the usage of humor. It helps the researcher in the way that it discussed the violence and vulnerability which are cognate to discrimination toward the Native Americans in the novel as the effect of White Supremacy.

Both previous studies have helped the researcher in better understanding the problem and issues associated with the current study's subject. Also, both previous studies are to distinguish the current study with the other similar study and to make the differences emerge more which will make the current study becomes more distinctive and stronger, and hence this study will be worth to conduct.



## **2.3 Research Method**

In conducting this study, there are four steps, which are:

### **2.3.1 Deciding the material object**

The novel *Flight* by Sherman Alexie published in 2007 is selected to be the material object of this study because there was only few studies about Native American in Brawijaya University specifically in the Faculty of Cultural Studies. This novel is one of the literary works which delineates decently how the Native American treated in the society especially in confronting the White Supremacy.

### **2.3.2 Collecting and validating the data**

In this step, the material object will be read several times to collect the data. To prove every argument associated with the problem of the study, the researcher uses the description highlighted in the novel, dialogues among the characters, and from the main character's perceptions which are generally not verbally uttered, but more similar to the narration to make the collected data valid.

### **2.3.3 Analyzing and interpreting the data**

The researcher will use the lens of a sociological approach to literature to interpret the impact of White Supremacy to Native Americans since the problem of this study is associated with the real society. It makes sociological approach is the most appropriate method to conduct this study. Additionally, to understand the other aspects of society, the theories on race and ethnicity, White Supremacy, colonization, westernization, and discrimination will be used in analyzing the problems aroused in the novel.

#### 2.3.4 Drawing conclusion

Drawing conclusion is the final step of the study which the researcher answers the problem of the study based on the data in the finding and discussion.



### CHAPTER III

#### FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This chapter will present the analysis and discussion about the impact of White Supremacy through colonization, westernization, and discrimination which represented in Sherman Alexie's *Flight*. The approaches and theories previously discussed are used in analyzing the problem of the study.

White Supremacy is the ideological driver of the European colonizers to feel more superior to the other groups of races. This ideology conduces several related acts of the European colonists to show their superiority. In the process of conquering the land, the European colonists little by little even put their ideologies to the Native American. It causes the Native Americans being alienated as they try to assimilate the western culture.

The novel *Flight* is a device to show the presence of White Supremacy in American society through the existence of colonization, westernization, and discrimination. The colonization happens in the story shows that from a long time ago European colonizer has power over Native Americans. The main character, Zits, has to live in foster houses. It occurs to make him feels uncomfortable. As a result, he keeps moving to new foster houses and loses the experience to understand the meaning of family. Not only Zits but also the other characters endure white American superiority. It is reinforced by the segregation that the characters get because they are Native Americans. White Supremacy can affect many people in Americans society

including African Americans, Asian Americans, Latin Americans, American Jews and especially Native Americans which represented in the novel *Flight*.

White Supremacy can affect to the life of Native Americans from the old-time to the latter days. The Native Americans and their descendants who already have mixed culture with white people or other races, still could feel the impact through colonization, westernization, and discrimination.

### 3.1 The Impacts of Colonization

The European colonizers' confidence that they are superior to the Native Americans is based on their belief, which is called White Supremacy, and they have it before they come to the Americas. Gardiner (2009) states that "Europeans saw themselves as superior to people of color. This belief forms the basis for the attitude of white superiority and the culture of white supremacy". This belief which leads the colonization happens and it can be considered as an "attitude of white superiority". This what also makes colonization and White Supremacy cannot be separated in this case since it has a strong relationship.

In *Flight*, Zits who travels to the past time has to deal with colonization. He happens to be the old-time Native American and also as one of the colonizers. He has to deal with war as the impact of colonization when he becomes the old-time Native American kid. He has to be accustomed to the view of dead people, the sound of rifles, blood, and he even has to be accustomed with his new condition which cannot talk as he realizes that he becomes the victim of war. He also has to deal with killing

people because he is obliged when he becomes one of the colonizers, named Gus. He has to see children become the victims and a really young soldier has to join the war as well.

The impact of colonization is not only can be seen through the point of view of the old-time Native American and Gus as the characters that Zits becomes, but also can be from someone like Junior that Zits only becomes the witness. Junior is one of the Native American activists who lives in a reservation, but ended up died in the hand of FBI agents. From those events mentioned previously, it can be concluded that there are several impacts faced by the characters in the novel that can be traced as negative impacts of colonization, which are death and mass murder, war, and Indian removal policy. Those impacts are discussed in the separated sections as follows.

### **3.1.1 The Depopulation of Native Americans**

The leading causes of depopulation of Native Americans found in *Flight* are wars and a big massacre of the Native Americans. The reason is the colonization occurred to Native Americans is considered as settler colonialism. Settler colonizers do not only come to the land to plunder the natural resources but also plan to settle in the land. However, they want to be the only settlers in the land which makes them come to an idea to eliminate the Native people. It is because from the beginning they already opine that they are racially superior to the indigenous people. They consider the Native Americans are weaker than them which make them plan to eliminate the Native Americans; therefore, they can own the land entirely. Wolfe states “Settler



colonialism destroys to replace,” (2006, p. 388). Therefore, it causes wars and a big massacre of the Native Americans.

s in *Flight*, the massacre of the Native Americans is shown when there are still old-time Native Americans. Zits is transported to June 1876 as a Native American boy at the age of twelve or thirteen, the son of one of the Native American warriors. He remembers that in that era there is a war in which the Native Americans are slaughtered. Back in that day, there is a battle between the U.S. Cavalry soldiers led by Custer, a cavalry commander, and the Native American warriors, which is a real event. The Native American warriors are lead by a war leader named Crazy Horse. The battle is named the Battle of the Little Bighorn or Custer’s Last Stand.

According to Zits, the Native Americans will be slaughtered in that day, “and they’ll be slaughtered by the U.S. Cavalry soldiers,” (Alexie, 2007, p. 66). It signifies that the U.S. Cavalry soldiers here are tools to eliminate the Native Americans. To slaughter is more than just to kill. It does not matter who is killed. It is to kill indiscriminately, “Custer had ridden into camp to kill men, women, and children,” (Alexie, 2007, p. 72). It indicates that it is not merely about to win the war and to defeat the warriors in the battle but all of the inhabitants of Native Americans. It is the attempt to wipe out a race.

Custer’s U.S. Cavalry soldiers are lost against the Native American warriors because the population of Native Americans is still in a significant number. There are at least thousands of Native American warriors only. However, the Battle of the Little Bighorn is not the end of the attempted elimination of Native American tribes. Custer



is nothing compared to the latter commanders or soldiers of the European colonizers. Zits states, “here, I mean. But Custer wasn’t important. He was easily replaced. There were plenty of other soldiers who were smarter and better at killing Indians,” (Alexie, 2007, p. 70). It emphasizes that there is no definite end to the massacre of the Native Americans because there is always the following battle after one ends. Moreover, when Zits says ‘smarter’ and ‘better,’ it can be seen as a sarcastic tone. ‘Smarter’ and ‘better’ here are not in positive tones or as compliments. Those words indicate the attempt of killing the Native Americans as a competition among the European colonizers. It signifies that the European colonizers do try to evolve to become a better killer to show more superiority than their predecessor. It implies by killing the Native Americans they prove their superiority which matches with White Supremacy as their ideology.

An impact is shown as a result of a keep-continuing massacre of Native Americans in the following event described in *Flight*. After the Battle of the Little Bighorn, Zits wakes up, and he already occupies a body of a different person. He is currently in the military tent of U.S. Cavalry soldiers. He becomes Gus, the Indians tracker. He is asked to lead one hundred white soldiers to a Native American village. The U.S. Army arrives at the right place, but there are only about twenty-five Native American warriors who are ready for the coming of the soldiers. “But only twenty-five Indian warriors ride out to meet us. Most of them are boys. ... It’s one hundred repeating rifles versus seven rifles and eighteen bows,” (Alexie, 2007, p. 89). This situation highlights the impact of the previous battle and the massacre of Native

Americans, which is depopulation of Native Americans. The depopulation is proven by the presence of boys who join the Native American warriors to fight the European colonizers.

Moreover, it is not only boys who join the battle, but almost all of the people in the village. Men, women, and even old men also join the Native Americans warrior to protect their tribe and land. "A few of the women have bows and arrows, too. And a few old men," (Alexie, 2007, p. 90). It shows that almost all of the villagers feel obliged to join the war since there is nobody else who can protect their families other than themselves. They already lack numbers because of the previous slaughters and mass murder.

As being Gus, Zits, who has half control of Gus' body, consider the coming of Gus' troops will end the lives of the Native American villagers. "If we reach it, we will kill old people, women, and children. We will destroy families. But the warriors can't stop us. They are riding to their deaths. And they are singing their death songs," (Alexie, 2007, p. 89). It signifies that there will be a more massive death of Native Americans despite all of their attempts to prevent the increase in mortality rate of their people. Because there is already a lack of numbers of Native Americans, it only causes greater depopulation. Zits describes the U.S. Army kill them without cease and with every kind of ways. "We barely pause as we kill all of them, with bullet and fist and saber and boot," (Alexie, 2007, p. 90). Because all of the attempts to kill the Native Americans, it causes massive death and greater depopulation of the Native American troops.

The depopulation of the Native Americans is clearer if their numbers in the battle with Gus' troops are compared to the previous battle described in the novel, the Battle of the Little Bighorn. The Native Americans win the previous war because they still have thousands of warriors to fight back and to protect their land since their population is still in a sufficient number. "Thousands of hot and angry Indian dudes ride out to meet Custer and his doomed soldiers," (Alexie, 2007 p. 69). It proves the number of the Native Americans in the previous battle is more significant than the following battle. Because in the previous battle for only the warriors, they have thousands of them while they only have twenty-five warriors in the following battle. As wars and massacre keep occurring, there will be people who lose their lives whether they win the fight or not. That is why the Battle of the Little Bighorn also contributes to causing the Native Americans to lose their people even though they win the battle. There will be less and fewer people who join the wars as more battles occur to the point where there are only twenty-five Native American warriors left.

The European colonizers try anything to eliminate the Native Americans. One of the soldiers' gun is already out of bullets, and he uses his rifle to hit one of the Native American girls. "But his gun jams. He pulls the trigger again. Nothing. So he grabs the barrel of his rifle,... as he smashes the gun down on the girl's skull," (Alexie, 2007, p. 90-91). How the soldier keeps trying to kill even though he is out of bullet proves that U.S. soldiers will do anything to kill the Native Americans so that their mission accomplished. That is why the massacre pictured in the novel causes a massive death of the Native Americans, whether they win the fight or not.

In the end, war only brings sorrow no matter who wins the battle. It is because there are always innocent people who die in the war and also the ones who survive that become the victims. Zits, as he witnesses the event describes:

I see a soldier slam his horse into an old woman. She falls. ...  
A soldier dismounts and chases down a woman and her little daughter. He shoots the woman in the back. She falls. The daughter drops to her knees beside her mother. Daughter wails (Alexie, 2007, p. 90).

It shows that the white soldiers also hurt people who do not understand the problems because they consider all of the Native Americans are below them and they deserve to be treated that way. It is evident that after the woman gets shot, her daughter, who knows nothing, is the one who is in the sorrow of losing a mother. It also shows that because of wars and massacre, the Native Americans have to encounter inhuman violence as the impact.

There is another impact of wars and massacres of Native Americans. It is revealed as Zits occupies the body of the old-time Native American boy. Zits learns that the boy is also a victim of war. There is a massive flesh in his throat, a big scar on his neck. That wound makes that boy loses his ability to talk. Zits can see some of the memories that the boy has through his mind after becoming that boy. "And then I remember: A white soldier cut my throat... And now my father wants revenge. He wants me to want revenge," (Alexie, 2007, p. 75). It shows that children or the innocents become the victims. As a result, it creates another reason for the Native Americans to fight back or to make war with the European colonists.

The father of the boy paints himself children's hands with war-paint. "I wonder if he paints himself that way to remember the Indian children who have been destroyed by white soldiers," (Alexie, 2007, p. 76). It indicates the Native American boy is not the only innocent victim of the war but only one of them. It proves that wars and massacres also can make the Native Americans want to revenge as an impact, in common with the father of the boy who wants revenge.

The impact of the wars and the massacre is not only perceived by the Native Americans in the old-time, but also in the present time. Zits states that he only learns about Native Americans through television since there is no other Native Americans around him who can teach him directly. "I don't know any other Native Americans, except the homeless Indians who wander around downtown Seattle," (Alexie, 2007, p. 7). It proves that the depopulation as the impact of the wars and the massacres that happen in the past affects the lives of the present Native Americans. They lack community as an impact of depopulation. The depopulation still can be felt by the present Native Americans like Zits.

As the wars break and the massacres of the Native Americans also happen, most of the Native Americans die as a result. Stannard stated, "the destruction of the Indians of the Americas was, far and away, the most massive act of genocide in the history of the world," (cited in World Future Fund, para. 4). The victims include the innocent people, and it makes the rest of the Native Americans want to have revenge on European colonists. This cycle keeps repeating which makes massive death and depopulation of the Native Americans follows as the most significant impact of all of



those events. The other impacts of the wars and massacre pictured in the novel are to cause the Native Americans to undergo inhuman violence and to bring sorrow to ones who are left by the victims of the massacres.

### 3.1.2 Two Major Divisions of Native American Parties

The Native Americans divided into two major parties is because there is European colonizers' authority. Since European colonizers are settler colonizers, they plan to replace the population of Native Americans with their community. They try to eliminate the Native Americans because of their ideology which considers the Native Americans are inferior to them regarding of race. They prove their power by successfully eliminating almost all of the population of Native Americans. Smith (2012) states,

The second pillar of white supremacy is the logic of genocide. This logic holds that indigenous peoples must disappear; in fact, they must always be disappearing, in order to enable nonindigenous peoples' rightful claim to land. Through this logic of genocide, non-Native peoples then become the rightful inheritors of all that was indigenous—land, resources, indigenous spirituality, and culture, (p. 69).

Because of that belief, it makes European colonizers have their authority over the Americas and also Native Americans.

Because the European colonizers still opine that they are more superior, it rationalizes their authority to reserve the right of controlling the indigenous people, governmental affairs, and the land itself. As in *Flight*, the European colonizers establish FBI agents to handle the governmental affairs directly on the field, as the

representation of the US government. It includes the mission to eliminate the Native Americans. It makes some of the Native Americans realize the power and authority of the European colonizers over the land and their people.

It is when Zits becomes Hank Storm, the FBI agent. He comes to one of the reservations, Nannapush Indian Reservation. Zits as Hank and his friend, Art, have to meet with two famous Native American heroes from a famous Native American organization that fights the European colonizers called IRON. IRON has its opposite organization called HAMMER that works along with the FBI. However, Zits finds out that the men he meets, whose name are Horse and Elk, work for the FBI. They are ordered to catch one of the fighters of IRON. “All right,” art says. ‘Hold his arms.’ Elk and Horse hold Junior’s arms. He doesn’t fight back,” (Alexie, 2007, p. 50). It shows that Art as the FBI agent has more power than Elk and Horse. He is able to order Elk and Horse to do anything he wants. He makes Elk and Horse will to hold the arms of his comrade while he hits their comrade. It signifies that the power, which the European colonizers gain from eliminating almost all of the Native Americans, makes them become more superior than the Native Americans. Some of them, like Elk and Horse, are aware of the fact that they are less powerful. It makes them obey every order from the FBI agents.

As a result, the Native American tribes divided into two big groups. The tribe who supports the European colonizers because of their authority and the other tribe who fights to gain their rights back. They have entirely different vision and mission which indicates inclinations. It creates the image of favorable Native Americans and

unfavorable Native Americans based on the perspective of Native Americans. The existence of IRON and HAMMER makes which side is favorable and unfavorable become clearer. It is described blatantly in *Flight* that IRON is the one who protects the Native Americans while HAMMER is the who tries to help the FBI. "... You know, that's where IRON was protecting traditional Indians from the evil Indian tribal government dudes. What were they called?' 'HAMMER,' Art says," (Alexie, 2007, p. 47). It proves that the authority of the government through the FBI splits the Native American tribes into two big groups. It creates images that IRON is the favorable one and HAMMER is the unfavorable one through the perspective of Native Americans. This situation arises an assumption that those Native Americans betray their people. They become enemies and develop hatred toward each other.

The division of Native Americans into two major groups can also be found when Zits travels to another time where he becomes the thirteen-year-old Native American child who witnesses the Custer's Last Stand battle. There is one of the great legends of Native American warriors, Crazy Horse. Zits remembers that there is an event when Crazy Horse is killed. It is when he got arrested by the colonizers and got betrayed by one of his old friends, Little Big Man. "Another Indian warrior will betray Crazy Horse. Little Big Man will hold Crazy Horse's arms as a white soldier punches a bayonet into the strange one's belly," (Alexie, 2007, p. 77). This event underlines that there are two major groups of Native Americans. One party who fights against European colonizers is presented by Crazy Horse. As Little Big Man participates with the white soldier in the process of killing Crazy Horse, it indicates

that he does that as a sign that he is already in the European colonizers' side. It makes Crazy Horse become the favorable one, and Little Big Man is the unfavorable one.

Because the emergence of favorable and unfavorable images of Native American, it makes Native Americans like Zits give their judgments which generate a broader community of both groups. Zits always believes that Elk and Horse are Native American heroes because of the information he gets from books and television. However, Zits finds out that Horse and Elk are the spy agents of HAMMER which make them on the FBI's side. "I thought they hated FBI. I thought they were fighting *against* the FBI," (Alexie, 2007, p. 49). It shows that what Zits believes all along is fallacious. This cognizance makes Zits develop the feeling of disbelief which makes him feel betrayed. As a result, it makes Zits emerge negative assumption toward Horse and Elk as the spy agents of HAMMER. This negative assumption can develop hatred and separate them toward each other. It also makes Zits decide which one is favorable and which one is unfavorable as the impact.

Zits' judgment about the image of Horse and Elk as the unfavorable men is strengthened with the appearance of the character Junior. He is the fighter of IRON who gets caught by the FBI with the help of Horse and Elk. Zits describes Horse and Elk as people who do not care about the sorrow of the Native Americans and betray their people. "I look at Elk and Horse. They're smiling. I realize they aren't freedom fighters or anything like that. They don't care about protecting the poor and defenseless," (Alexie, 2007, p. 50). On the contrary, Zits describes Junior with positivity that people can tell that Junior is the good man.

And then Junior, amazing little Junior, he gets this look in his eyes. It's peaceful and defiant at the same time. It's like he's saying, *Kill me if you want. It doesn't matter. I'm still a better person than you*, (Alexie, 2007, p. 51).

How Zits describes Junior with the word “amazing” and remarks how brave he is, shows in whose side Zits is. It reveals that Zits sees Junior as a person who is a better individual than the other party. Zits emphasizes that Junior is the favorable one.

Along with the great elimination of Native Americans, some of the Native Americans deduce that the white people are more superior than them. It makes some of them consider to be in the side of European colonizers to have a better life or at least are guaranteed that they will not be killed. As an impact, it disunites the Native Americans into two major groups, the ones who support the European colonizers and the ones who fight against the European colonizers. They betray each other as what happens to Horse and Elk who betray IRON to save their own lives. Because of the divisions, it also creates the idea that there are ‘good’ and ‘bad’ Native Americans. It then leads them to hate each other.

Doctrine is essential in shaping the Native Americans’ perception toward the colonization. European colonizers create the doctrine to make the Native Americans reshape their perspective of European colonizers’ treatments toward them, which is called westernization. Westernization as a form of White Supremacy also gives negative impacts to the lives of Native Americans which are a loss of affection and attachment to the family, depression, and discrimination.



### 3.2 The Impacts of Westernization

Colonization chains to westernization. According to Kortright, “to justify the colonization of people, images need to be created so that the subjugation makes sense. These images become the identity of the colonized,” (2003, par. 15). The attempt of giving conceptions to the colonized ones is the element of westernization so that they reshape their perspective to the western way of thinking. According to Encyclopedia.com, “... the nature of Westernization continues to be relevant as local traditions become more integrated (or subsumed) within supposed "universal" values,” (2005, para. 1). It indicates westernization put a new perspective on the Native Americans and decreases the Native Americans’ origin culture and tradition.

The next step done by the European colonizers is to make the rest of the Native Americans to live like them. It is to show that European colonizers have power over the Native Americans. To change the lifestyle that the Native Americans are not accustomed to can give particular impacts to their lives. It is also described in *Flight*. Zits as Native American descent has to be raised in foster houses so that he can live like white Americans. However, it is not only one foster house that Zits goes through, but around twenty foster houses. On top of that, he also attends more than twenty schools. Those conditions affect him in some aspects since he is only a fifteen-year-old young man. The following discussion presents the impacts of westernization.

### 3.2.1 The Loss of Native Americans Affection and Attachment to the Family

The Native Americans lose the sense of affection and attachment toward family because the emergence of Foster houses. Code of Federal Regulations defines:

Foster care means 24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the State agency has placement and care responsibility. This includes, but is not limited to, placements in foster family homes, foster homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, child care institutions, and preadoptive homes, (2004, p. 1).

Foster house, which is a part of foster care, is also a part of westernization since there is no house equal to white Americans' in the Native Americans' culture. Native American children are dispatched to a house with a family that is accustomed to living in a house and separated from their families. It is to make Native American children not to live like the old-time Native Americans. However, foster houses can spark severe impacts to the Native American children as it is portrayed through Zit's character in *Flight*.

Zits, as the Native American child, whose mother passes away and father is nowhere to be traced, also experiences living in foster houses. As he has lived in many foster houses, he knows some types of foster parents. He categorizes them into two types, "the good but messy people who are trying to help kids or the absolute welfare vultures who like to cash government checks every month," (Alexie, 2007, p. 8). It shows that foster parents who provide foster houses do not take care of their foster children truthfully. Sometimes, they only want to get an allowance from the government. As an impact, the Native American children lose the sense of affection

and attachment to the family. Zits also declares that he gets different treatment from one of his foster parents, “ it is easy to tell what kind of people my latest foster parents are. Their real kids have new shoes; the foster kids are wearing crap shoes,” (Alexie, 2007, p. 8). Being treated differently in front of his eyes, it makes Zits realize that he does not belong there. Zits' experiences strengthen the idea of loss of affection and attachment to the term “family.”

Zits once states that he does not care about his foster parents, “I can hear my new foster family bumping around in the other room. I don’t care about them,” (Alexie, 2007, p. 3). It shows that he loses affection and attachment to his foster family because he never feels a real family relationship with his previous foster families. He perceives that he does not have to be close to their foster parents since he does not belong there, “I can hear my new foster family. I don’t want to see them. I wish I could stay in this room forever,” (Alexie, 2007, p. 11). Through that statement, it shows that Zits has a distant relationship with his foster family. He even shows a rebellious side of him. When his foster mother rebukes him for being ignorant and tells him that in that house they have rules to follow, Zits only replies “‘Whatever,’ I say,” (Alexie, 2007, p. 13). It shows that he does not treasure the rules and has no intention to follow them. Since he does not feel attached to any family and has no affection neither, he assumes that it is acceptable to hurt his foster parents’ feelings and becomes a rebellious child.

There is also one moment when Zits finally gets to live with a couple who want him after experiencing out-of-body experience and time traveling. However,

there is still skepticism in Zits which makes him does not fully trust the couple which makes him say that he will live with them temporarily. Despite Zits' doubt, the couple hopes that Zits can live with them permanently. At that moment Zits realizes how unfamiliar the word 'permanent' sounds. "For a second, I can't even remember what that word means. For a moment, I forget that the word permanent ever existed," (Alexie, 2007, p. 177). It is a proof that he loses the feeling of being attached as the result of previous foster houses. As he moves so frequently, he does not understand the value of a family since he never experiences it. As the impact of bad experiences in his previous foster houses, the word 'permanent' sounds strange to him.

The first time Zits come to his new foster parents' house, he is delivered by a social worker. However, in the car, Zits feels he is not free even though he only sits in the car. "They don't have me in handcuffs, but I feel handcuffed, if you know what I mean," (Alexie, 2007, p. 174). It indicates that Zits feels captivated by being sent to a new foster house. He feels living in a foster house is not what he wants. He feels suppressed for being delivered to his new foster house. It also proves by living in a foster house it can also give another psychological impact to Zits as a Native American which is suppressed.

There are numbers of Native American children who live in foster houses. According to AdoptUSKids, "many of these children were placed in non-Indian foster and adoptive homes and institutions far from their homes. Children lost touch with their families and their culture, and many suffered abuse," (para. 4). The European colonizers consider the Native Americans as inferior human beings because

of their race and how they live their lives. Because they consider themselves higher in rank, they make the rest of Native Americans follow their way of life instead of they adjust to the Native Americans' way of lives. It is to show that they are more powerful in the United States society. It makes the Native Americans have to abandon their cultures and traditions and live uncomfortably with the other's family. That is why Zits becomes a more rebellious kid since he knows if he ever finds himself in trouble, he only has to move to another foster house.

### **3.2.2 The Depression of Native Americans**

The establishment of schools is the impactful factor that makes the Native Americans undergo depression. School is noted as the first place where people acquire a formal education. It generates what has been instructed in schools is crucial, primarily, to the Native Americans. Since the ones who go to schools are mostly children who commonly do not have much knowledge about their culture, it initiates the education in schools is significant in constructing the new ideology through them.

Since the European colonizers view Native Americans as uncivilized human beings who need help, they send most of the Native American children to boarding schools to become more like them. American Indian Relief Council affirms that "Bureau of Indian Affairs ... assumed that it was necessary to 'civilize' Indian people, make them accept white men's beliefs and value systems," (para. 2). It indicates that European colonizers believe that the Native Americans are lower than them and that they have to obey European colonizers. The European colonizers put



the doctrine that they are superior to the Native Americans; therefore, the Native American children will believe that they are indeed inferior. It is also pictured in *Flight* when Zits goes back to the old-time. As he becomes the mute thirteen-year-old Native American child, he states the European colonizers will conquer all of the old-time Native Americans.

Through the establishment of schools, the European colonizers try to eliminate the Native American traditions. Consequently, there will be more people who practice the western culture. It makes them feel even more superior since they have many followers. Zits describes that the Native American children are conveyed to schools coercively and prohibited to communicate their language. "The children are going to be kidnapped and sent off to boarding schools. Their hair will be cut short, and they will be beaten for speaking tribal languages. They'll be beaten for dancing and singing the old-time Indian songs," (Alexie, 2007, p. 66). It indicates that they are obliged to practice something entirely new. They have to learn and practice a foreign language. It makes them hard to communicate and socialize with the other students. They are forced to comprehend the White culture which makes them encounter difficulty in schools.

As it is delineated in *Flight*, learning a new culture encumbers the Native American children, as an impact, it affects them psychologically. Consequently, they begin consuming alcohol and being dependent on it. "All of them are going to start drinking booze. And their children will drink booze. And their grandchildren and great-grandchildren will drink booze," (Alexie, 2007, p. 66). It reveals forced learning

of a new culture makes them encounter depression. Since they cannot manage the pressures they receive at a time, they have their runaway, which is alcohol, to disregard every constraint. As a result, they become alcoholics, and it continues to their next generation.

Another impact is shown when Zits is in the kindergarten. His mother informs him it is advantageous to be in school because he can have plenty of friends. However, after he experiences it himself, he discovers that he feels uncomfortable being in school. It generates him to assume that his mother's remark is not right.

‘it’s going to be okay,’ she said. ‘School is a good thing. You’re going to have lots of friends. And you’ll learn so much. And the teachers will take care of you, okay?’ ...

...She was wrong, of course. School was not good for me.

I never made friends.

I didn’t learn much.

I was not okay, (Alexie, 2007, p. 159).

He is certain when he says that his mother is wrong with the emphasis “of course.”. It indicates what occurred to him, in reality, is the opposite of his mother’s remark. It can be inferred that he does not learn profoundly in school because he is forced to learn subjects based on white people’s perspectives in the same way as the old-time Native American children. As Zits states that he does not learn much from school, it indicates that the Native American children are taught the same things over and over. It makes them presume school is an impediment, similarly to what Zits discerns. As the impact, it prompts depression to Zits which makes him feel unmotivated to go to school; hence he has no friend in school.

The Native American children can encounter difficulty in learning the subjects in schools since they are not accustomed. Schools that are established by the European colonizers teach subjects from the white people point of view to the Native American children. As a result, they cannot relate to what has been taught to them with their conversance throughout their lives. It can give a different learning outcome from the white student. American Indian Relief Council describes, “the Indian boarding schools taught history with a definite white bias,” (para. 10). It means the Native Americans are forced to learn the European colonizers’ doctrine in schools.

The pressure they encounter in school generates them to experience psychological impact which is depression and makes them become alcoholics. Rotondaro claims that there is a Native American man who suffers from alcoholism because of boarding school, “He said his boarding school experience broke him. Moving into adulthood, he fell into alcoholism and out of touch with his children, spending the last quarter century in psychological, emotional and spiritual recovery,” (2015, para. 10). It resembles the situation Zits and his father have to encounter. School is another form of westernization that gives profound impacts to the Native American which is depression.

### **3.2.3 The Underestimation of Native Americans**

The Native Americans encounter underestimation because there is assimilation. Assimilation is in which the Native Americans attempt to be more similar to the white Americans, whether it is their willingness or it is coercion, by

practicing the white culture. However, assimilation is also the European colonizers' attempt to remove the Native Americans culture and tradition since they cannot eliminate the Native Americans entirely. Wolfe claims assimilation as "... one of a range of strategies of elimination that become favoured in particular historical circumstances," (2006, p. 401). Consequently, Native Americans who already westernized through schools and foster houses, slowly become more similar to white Americans. It is proved by Zits who likes baseball. He tends to say that the beautiful ones are white women and blue eyes. His favorite song is also from a western rock band, and he wears similar as the white people commonly use.

There is an occasion in which Zits says he knows about his culture and history only through television. "Everything I know about Indians (and I could easily beat 99 percent of the world in a Native American version of Trivial Pursuit) I have learned from television," (Alexie, 2007, p. 12). It shows that there is a lack of community which makes the rest of Native Americans have to assimilate with the rest of the majority. It is because there is no Native American adult can teach him about Native American culture and history directly. Moreover, he gets the information from television. It is noted that the powerful ones dominate mass media. As it is known that the powerful ones are the white Americans, therefore, the information presented can be created. It is proved as Zits travels back in time, he is surprised that there are things which occur in the old-time different from what he learns from television. He is in disbelief which indicates that he can rely on no one.

Zits gives attempts to join the majority because of the situations surround him. He agrees to go to school even though he does not like it and he agrees to live in foster houses as well. However, there is a moment when Zits meets a social worker woman who says that Zits has never developed a sense of citizenship. She tells Zits to wear a 'proper' to be a more citizen.

'For instance, do you know how to knot a necktie?'

'No,' I said.

'Do you know how to shine a pair of shoes?'

'no,' I said.

'When you walk around this city, how many men do you see wearing neckties and shiny shoes?'

'A lot, I guess,' (Alexie, 2007, p. 5).

Even though Zits does not wear shiny shoes and necktie as his everyday garments, he wears a shirt and a pair of jeans identical with the other white Americans. However, Zits draws more attention because his attempt to assimilate is considered not enough since people still can tell that he is a Native American. The social worker points out the differences. She underestimates Zits by suggesting him to be more civilized. It shows that as Zits tries to assimilate to the majority group, the result is his differences from the majority group become increasingly apparent. As the impact, Zits is compared with the white Americans and underestimated, in common with the reaction that the social worker woman gives to him.

On another occasion, when Zits in jail, he meets with another kid named Justice. Justice talks suspiciously and Zits thinks that he tries to make Zits become Christian. "'You're one of them f\*cking Christians aren't you?' I ask. Those bastards are always trying to save me, a poor Injun heathen," (Alexie, 2007, p. 22). Those



people who want to make Zits become Christian, always think that Native Americans like Zits need more help than the other people. It is not enough for Zits to know about Christian, but he has to practice it to be fully accepted. That is why Zits is targeted just like he says. It indicates that there is an underestimation of the Native Americans as human beings which makes Zits get different treatment by frequently asked to go to church.

Assimilation leads to an underestimation of Native Americans since they are compared with white Americans. Their attempt to assimilate is considered not enough which makes them treated differently from the dominant society. It indicates that they are not entirely accepted in the dominant community. Teske and Nelson clarify, “becoming a member of a community, then, is correlative to acceptance by that community,” (1973, p. 359). The fact that assimilation needs acceptance by the ones who own the culture make Native Americans hardly become the actual members of that community because they are always compared. As the impacts, assimilation makes them experience underestimation and also a lack of membership in the community.

### **3.3 The Impacts of Discrimination**

In the process of assimilation, the white Americans realize that they are indeed different. They are different because the white Americans still see the Native Americans as inferior to them. It leads to a more profound effect than merely differentiated. It makes them encounter discrimination. Discrimination is an unjust

treatment that is addressed to them because of their race. It affects the Native American to some degrees. They have to face the segregation by the majority group, getting harassment from their surroundings, and also they have to face violence because of their race. All of these situations are pictured in *Flight* as the impact of discrimination.

### 3.3.1 The Native American Inequalities

The Native Americans encounter Inequality because there is racial segregation in the society. Racial segregation is the act to alienate one particular group with the rest of the society because of their race. Britannica defines racial segregation as “the practice of restricting people to certain circumscribed areas of residence or to separate institutions (e.g., schools, churches) and facilities (parks, playgrounds, restaurants, restrooms) on the basis of race or alleged race,” (para. 1). It shows that there are superior and inferior in term of race. It gives advantages only to the ones who are in the superior social status. The object of segregation is the minority group, and in this case is Native Americans.

There are some pictures of segregation in *Flight*. In the beginning of the story, Zits mentions that there is a special welfare to take care of the Native American foster children,

There's this law called the Indian Child Welfare Act that's supposed to protect half-breed orphans like me. I'm only supposed to be placed with Indian foster parents and families. But I'm not an official Indian... Since I'm not a legal Indian, the government can put me wherever they want, (Alexie, 2007, p. 8-9).

It proves there is segregation of Native Americans children in the matter of foster house. They are separated from white foster children. The segregation indicates that there must be a different treatment for both groups of foster children. Zits as a Native American child also has to experiences segregation because of the law. He is put in foster houses differently from the white foster children, and it makes Zits feels alienated from the rest of foster children. The existence of the Indian Child Welfare Act creates inequality for Native American children to get the same living environment with the other children.

The public facilities also separate the Native Americans from the majority group. In one occasion, Zits occupies the body of his father. He almost faints on the street, and some white tourists want to help him. However, he gets discriminated. One of the tourists tells the hospital that Zits' father is a Native American and it affects the hospital services. "Did you tell them I was an Indian?" 'Yes,' Paul says. 'Did you tell them I was homeless?' 'Yes.' 'Then they ain't coming. Not for a long time, at least. I'm way down on their priority list,'" (Alexie, 2007, p. 137). It indicates that the hospital puts a priority on its patients. To be a Native American aggravates the situation since there will be less proper medication. It shows that the healthcare is differentiated and it indicates that there is an imbalance between Native Americans and white Americans.

Moreover, the tourist named Paul also segregates Zits' father with or without his awareness. It is because when he calls the hospital, he mentions that Zits' father is

a Native American. It means that he consciously or unconsciously differentiate Zits' father and he is aware that they are different concerning race. Additionally, he even differentiates Zits' father into a smaller group, which is 'homeless' Native American and it makes Zits' father treated more differently. As the impact, it creates inequality for Native Americans to get healthcare. The segregation of the Native Americans is evident in the society pictured in *Flight* which makes the Native Americans themselves will not be confused if they are treated differently.

Zits claims that in the past, the old-time Native Americans are placed separately and forcedly by European colonizers. They are placed in remote areas separated from the European settlers who live in the central area. "They'll be packed into trains cars and shipped off to reservations," (Alexie, 2007, p. 66). It indicates that segregation of Native Americans begins in the prior time. It causes inequalities for Native Americans to get the same opportunities of living in the central city. They are also incapable of getting advantages like the convenience to get goods, foods, healthcare, and the other facility efficiently.

Segregation gives a significant effect on the Native Americans. There are inequalities created by the government and the dominant society such as how they are placed to foster houses, healthcare, and also a place to live. As Goodman says, "Segregation is just people of different races living in different communities. The issue with segregation is that it often causes inequality," (cited in Bethea 2013, para. 3). It can be concluded that there is a rejection of a social community who live with the other social community, in this case, Native Americans and white Americans. It is

because white Americans believe as heretofore that they are not in the same level. White Supremacy as their ideology makes them opine that they deserve to control everything, it includes the acceptance of a social community. The rejection can be a form of separation of both communities which causes inequality as presented in *Flight*.

Reskin and National Research council expound that discrimination can be differentiated into two groups (1998, p.32; 2004, pp. 39 – 40, cited in Pager and Shepherd, 2008, p. 2). They are a differential treatment which means unequal treatment and disparate impact which means treated equally but the rules set to favor one specific group. Based on that statement, it can be concluded that the situations transpired in the novel is one of the forms of differential treatment.

### **3.3.2 The Intimidation and Physical Injuries of Native Americans**

The Native Americans have to experience intimidation and physical injuries because of harassment and violence. It is because the realization of the white Americans that they are different from the Native Americans affects their actions toward Native Americans which is harassment. According to Smith (2017, para. 7), harassment is the acts of “offense, humiliation, and intimidation.” Harassment can be in the form of “rude gestures, written or spoken words and images or jokes,” (Smith 2017, para. 7). Harassment also can be found in *Flight* through Zits’ out-of-body experiences.



In one occasion, when Zits occupies Hank Storm's body, the FBI agent, his partner, Art, says:

I didn't know any Indians until they sent me to work here. And then I met Indians. And trust me, none of them is worth much, well, maybe some of the kids. Some of the kids are still okay. But they're going to go bad, too. Just watch. There's something bad inside these Indians. They can't help themselves. (Alexie, 2007, p. 44)

In Art's statement, there are offensive words which indicate harassment. Art as a white American put judgment to all of the Native Americans and despise them. Although the first Native American he met were possibly inimical, it does not signify that all of them are identical. He harasses all of the Native Americans through spoken words. He puts judgments to all of the Native Americans generally which can offend them. In the same occasion Art also states, "In order to fight evil, sometimes we have to do evil things," he says," (Alexie, 2007, p. 56). It is visible that Art does not consider Native Americans as humans, but 'evil.' It means that Native Americans are lower than the other human beings since 'evil' is not a creature. Through Art's statement, it can be traced that there are intimidation and offense toward the Native Americans.

The idea that Native Americans are not considered as human beings is strengthened by what Teddy Roosevelt, one of the U.S. presidents, says which is quoted by Justice, Zits' friend in jail. "I don't go so far as to think that the only good Indians are dead Indians, but I believe nine out of ten are, and I shouldn't inquire too closely into the case of the tenth," (Alexie, 2007, p. 25). He states that he believes

nine out of ten Native Americans who are good are the only ones who already died. It means that he believes that almost all of the alive Native Americans are bad. Roosevelt's statement contains offensive words toward Native Americans that can be considered as harassment. Furthermore, he is the president at that moment. The influence is higher as to give a harassment statement in that manner as a significant figure like a president. It gives an impact to the Native Americans, even after years have passed.

Another occasion is when Zits occupies his father's body. After he meets some tourists, he vomits in which there is blood. It makes the tourists want to call the ambulance. However, Zits' father chooses to leave. He causes a conflict instead with the tourists. It is because when he chooses to leave, the tourists try to stop him and calling him back. Despite that, he only can hear the concern in their voices but not passion. It makes him fretful and says a harsh word. They quarrel until one of the tourists says that saying harsh words is the only thing Zits' father knows. "Leave him alone. He doesn't know what he's saying... It's all he knows how to do," (Alexie, 2007, p. 138). Even though the tourist says those words calmly, there is humiliation found in her statement which is to say 'it is all he knows how to do.' It means she does not consider Zits' father significant.

In consequence of the harassment statements given to the Native Americans, the Native Americans encounter the impacts which are intimidation, fear, anger, and humiliation. It is proved when Zits as Hank wants to tell the truth to Art that he is a multi-ethnic Native American, but eventually, he cannot apprise Art about that. "I

want to tell him, but I don't want to get punched. Or shot in the head. Again. So I keep quiet. As quiet as this reservation," (Alexie, 2007, p. 44). It shows that Zits loses his courage after hearing Art's harassments toward the Native Americans. He feels intimidated.

Fear is another impact of harassment which the Native Americans feel. It is stated that Zits is afraid of Art after Art says that Native Americans are equal to evil. "'I'm scared of you, Art,' I say," (Alexie, 2007, p. 56). It proves that harassment causes fear and intimidation. Harassment also can make the Native Americans feel angry as the impact. It is proven as Zits says he hates his country after he has the conversation with Justice about president Roosevelt who believes that almost all of the Native Americans are bad. "I hate my country... I get so angry sometimes that I want to hurt people," (Alexie, 2007, p. 26). It makes him remember how people around him treat him and he refers those people with 'his country.' It shows that even though Roosevelt's statement occurred a long time ago, it still presently affects people's actions toward the Native Americans because of his influence.

Humiliation is also the impact of harassment found in *Flight*. It is when one of the tourists who try to save Zits' father says that to say harsh words is the only thing that Zits' father knows. As a result, Zits' father feels that he is not respected and it makes him want to be respected. "I want some respect," (Alexie, 2007, p. 141). He screams those words to everyone who passes through him. Zits can feel the urgency of his father to say those words which show that he often feels humiliated or underestimated.

Zit's father experiences another humiliation when there is someone who hears Zits' father asking for some respects. However, this someone only gives an offensive word to Zits' father. "What the f\*ck do you want, chief?" (Alexie, 2007, p. 141). Then the man gives Zits' father some money since he thinks what Zits' father means by respect is money. Zits' father tells the man that money is not what he wants, but respect. However, the man only laughs at Zits' father's statement. To give offensive words and to presume that money is what Zits' father wants shows that the man harasses Zits' father. Moreover, the man laughs when Zits' father says he wants some respect, which means the man derides and underestimates Zits' father. As the impact, Zit's father feels humiliated and says that he wants some respect more. It indicates that he still gets humiliation which makes him keep saying that he wants some respect.

Being a minority group is strenuous. One of the results is harassment. The Native Americans are treated as they are less human than the dominant group. They are underestimated and intimidated. Lepore said, "(for the colonists) the Indians were not, in fact, truly human, or else were humans of such a vastly different race as to be considered essential, and biologically, inferior to Europeans," (cited in Gardiner, 2009, p. 6). It explains the cornerstone of Art, Roosevelt, and the other characters to say Native Americans are evil and destructive, and to harass them.

Harassment can also take to another level when the majority group abominates the minority group. The Native Americans as the minority encounter some afflictions due to the detestation towards them. They can be the target of

violence. According to Greenfeld and Smith (1999, p. iii) "American Indians are more likely than people of other races to experience violence at the hands of someone of a different race....". The existence of violence in *Flight* proves the impact of discrimination.

It is when Zits occupies the FBI agent's body, Hank Storm. One of the members of IRON, Junior, gets persecuted because he does not want to give the information which Hank's partner, Art, wants. "... I notice that all the fingers on his right hand are missing. Somebody cut them off," (Alexie, 2007, p. 49). It signifies that Art does not see him as equal to him and he deserves to get hit. Consequently, Junior loses some of his body parts, like fingers and hand. Another physical impact is to get broken teeth. "All of his teeth are smashed and broken. I almost vomit," (Alexie, 2007, p. 50). The significant thing is that Junior dies because of the violence. "Art shoots him in the face, and Junior drops. He's gone," (Alexie, 2007, p. 51). It shows that the impact can be long-lasting consequences, like losing hand, fingers and even death.

Violence also pictured in *Flight* when Zits occupies the body of the mute thirteen-year-old Native American child. The cause which makes him loses his voice is because the violence he gets from the European colonizers. "I reach up, touch my throat, and feel a huge fleshy knot. It's on my voice box..., but my voice has been taken away," (Alexie, 2007, p. 64). It is evident that the impact that he gets is a long-term physical injury which makes him speech-impaired. Zits remembers the Native American child's experience when he gets his throat slashed.



And then I remember: A white soldier cut my throat. In another camp on a different river, a white soldier grabbed my hair, lifted my chin, and slashed my throat with a bayonet. And now my father wants revenge. He wants me to get revenge, (Alexie, 2007, p. 75).

It proves that violence is the cause of his physical injury. It also prompts the Native Americans to do the violence as well. The Native American child's father wants to have revenge which means to do violence thing to one of the European colonizers.

When Zits occupies his father's body, it is stated that he gets pummeled. "Nobody looks at me as I stagger past. I'm not an uncommon sight. I'm beaten bloody Indian. Who turns to look at such a man? There are other beaten bloody Indians on this alley," (Alexie, 2007, p. 140). It shows that it is quotidian to discover Native Americans get pummeled. It also shows how common the Native Americans get discriminated to the degree they undergo violence. As the impact, the Native Americans have low self-esteem just like presented in Zits' father's character. "I want the other Indians to recognize me. To shout out my name," (Alexie, 2007, p. 140). As Zits' father often mistreated and gets physical violence, he considers himself as a low human being. It makes him want to be recognized as a human being and to show his existence.

Zits' father can be beaten up several times a day. It is when he screams for wanting some respects. As a stranger notice him, they subsequently have a social conversation. That conversation leads up to Zits' father gets stricken, "I'm just wondering how many white guys are going to beat my a\*s today," (Alexie, 2007, p. 142). It shows that he already gets several punches for a day. He also remarks that the

ones who beat him then are all white men. It means the Native Americans receive violence mostly from white men. The impact is that he commits self-harm attempts. It is not completely him who hurt himself, but he puts him into trouble that can hurt him. "Jesus, I'm pathetic. Didn't I just force that poor guy to hit me? Didn't I want his violence? F\*ck me," (Alexie, 2007, p. 140). It shows that as the impact of having repeated violence, it makes him have mental health to want to receive more physical violence on himself.

White Americans do violence to the ones whom they think are inferior to them. As the impact, it makes the Native Americans to have long-term physical injuries, to commit violence as well, and to have a mental health issue, like self-harming. According to The Line, the victims of violence can experience, "physical injuries, disability-like injuries, mental health consequences like depression, self-harm, poor self-esteem, and death," (para. 3). It proves the impacts mentioned are likely to transpire in *Flight*. Greenfeld and Smith state that white Americans victimize most of the Native American victims of violence, "the majority (60%) of American Indian victims of a violent crime described the offender as white....," (1999, p. 7). As it is presented in *Flight*, the Native Americans who become the victims of violence are mostly victimized by white Americans. It also signifies that there is white superiority involved in the act of violence done by white Americans.

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 4.1 Conclusion

In Sherman Alexie's *Flight*, there are four acts of White Supremacy presented throughout the novel, which are colonization, westernization, and discrimination. Each act gives affects the Native Americans. The existence of various characters helps the researcher to understand the struggles they encounter through different perspectives. It also clarifies the forms of White Supremacy presented in the novel.

As the impact of colonization, the Native Americans become the victims of wars and massacres and as a result, there is a depopulation of Native Americans. Moreover, as it is also found that the power of European colonizers is really influential to disunite the Native Americans into two big groups which one of them sides the European colonizer.

Westernization also gives profound impacts to the Native Americans. There is the establishment of foster house for Native American children and it makes them lose the affection and attachment to the term family. Westernization also cause the establishment of school. As the impact, the Native American children feel depressed because they are forced to learn the subjects in school and it leads them to become alcoholics. Assimilation as one of the form of westernization also gives negative impact to the Native Americans which is differentiated. It is because their attempt to assimilate is considered not enough and makes them rejected in the major group.

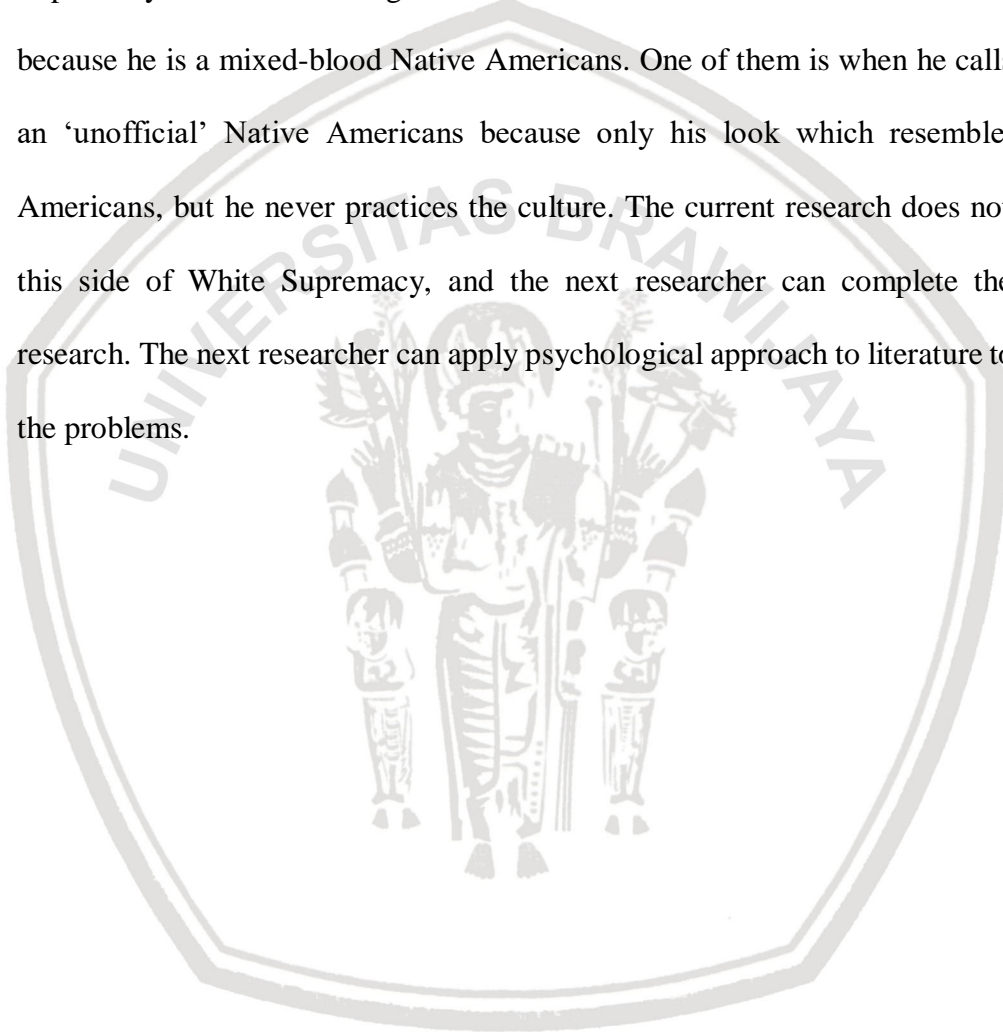
The impact of discrimination can be concluded as the form of segregation, harassment, and violence. Segregation creates inequality for the Native Americans in getting public facilities and the life opportunities, such as living place. While harassment makes the Native Americans feel demoralized, angry, humiliated, low self-esteem and attempting to self-harm. Violence also causes negative impacts which are long-term physical injuries, the desire to get revenge and death.

As a final conclusion, it can be concluded that westernization gives the bigger impact to the Native Americans than the other actions. Westernization prevents Native Americans to do what they used to do. It affects them in the current era and also chains to the next generation. It happens to Zits' father since he leaves Zits because he is an alcoholic. The cause of Zits' father becomes an alcoholic is westernization. It makes Zits becomes rebellious and hard to trust others since he has been betrayed for his entire life. It means westernization changes the entire life of the Native Americans forcefully and hegemonically.

#### **4.2 Suggestion**

The next researchers who would like to use *Flight* by Sherman Alexie as their material object of the study are suggested to analyze elements beyond the negative impacts of White Supremacy in the social lives of the Native Americans psychologically. The indicators emerge from colonial oppression and cultural suppression such as dignity and self-reliance. There is a character named Junior who appreciates his people and his tribe more because he encounters oppression from the

colonizer and makes him willing to die for his people because of his dignity. Zits also grows as an independent young man because he does not rely on anybody, it includes his biological family because of White Supremacy. The next researchers can also analyze the mixed-blood Native American self-identity as the impact of White Supremacy. It is found throughout the novel that Zits has confusion about his identity because he is a mixed-blood Native Americans. One of them is when he calls himself an 'unofficial' Native Americans because only his look which resembles Native Americans, but he never practices the culture. The current research does not provide this side of White Supremacy, and the next researcher can complete the current research. The next researcher can apply psychological approach to literature to analyze the problems.





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